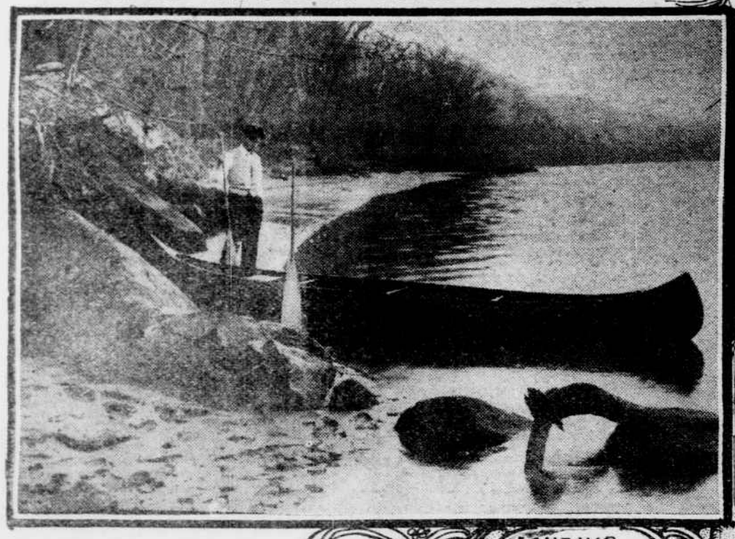
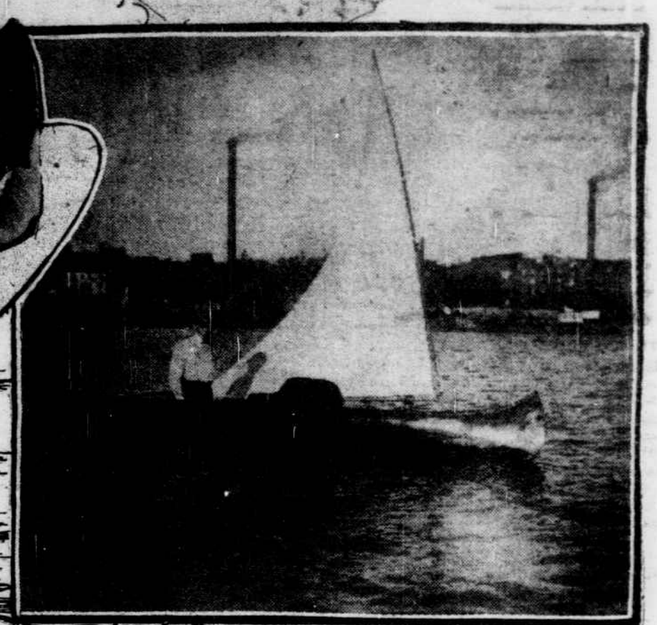
CANOEING season opens on the POTOMAC

THE OLD "LIFT LOCK" EDWARDS FERRY



LANDING JUST ABOVE GEORGETOWN.

A ONE NIGHT STAND



SAILING CANOE

EDWARDS FERRY

UNLESS all relative signs fail completely the approaching canoeing season will be the best this vicinity has ever known in point of numbers of canoeists on the river and their general activities in connection with the sport. The first large organization for local canoeists, separate and distinct from other river clubs, was established early last fall, and today has one of the finest club houses on the river front. Since its formation others have caught the fever, and two more clubs have followed the lead of the Washington Canoe Club. In the past there has always been a small number of devotees of the paddling sport on the Potomac, and among the number not a few experts have been developed. But the canoe has become generally popular only in the past two years. During this time the increase in the number of little craft hereabouts has been steady, so that today the boatman who is not a canoeist is not in fashion.

It has been said that when a sport combines the features of good bodily exercise, out-door breathing and the chance to observe nature's beauties at their best, it is about the finest sport that can be imagined. This is canoeing exactly, and such is the fascination attached to it that the saying "Once a canoeist always a canoeist," is pretty near literally true.

Of course, it is essential that there be an abundance of nature's beauties near enough for the paddler to reach without too great effort and expense of time, in order that a canoeing locality may be ideal. The mere exercise of wielding the paddle, which, however, should not be underrated, and the benefit of breathing good, pure air can be found practically everywhere that enough water exists to comfortably float a canoe. Scenic waters, picturesque shores and a surrounding country of varied interest are not always so easily discovered. But Washington boatmen have the latter at their very doors.

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A ride to the Georgetown terminal of the city street car lines brings one to the beginning of a most beautiful stretch of river, which is continuous for a hundred miles to the northwest and absolutely accessible to the canoe throughout that distance, according to the time and energy which one desires to expend. There is pleasure in it both for the lazy man and for the "cruiser" who likes to take a week or a month off from city toil.

Were it not for the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, so old as to nearly equal the river in its natural picturesqueness, the loveliest and most fascinating portions of the river would be much beyond the convenient reach of a boat of any size; but this long and snake-like body of water, running practically within a stone's throw of the Potomac from Georgetown to Cumberland, Md., invites the small boat upon its bosom and bears it to the farthest spots, away from railroad and oftimes from wagon road and foot parth. It is scarcely any effort at all to carry a canoe from the river to the canal and back again at almost any point along the route, so that the dangerous places in the former may be easily avoided and the pleasure of paddling on the larger body of water retained where it is desired.

While there is great pleasure to be found in canoeing on the river within a few miles of the city—say between Georgetown and Chain bridge—the real enjoyment is found in the longer trips, when one lives in and with the canoe for a week or a month at a time. There is a beautiful stretch of water for paddling just above High Island, extending almost to a point opposite Cabin John Bridge, but even this place, which is a Mecca for hundreds every year, does not afford the keen delight that is had in really "going some place."

A week is plenty of time to make the trip to Harper's Ferry and return—sixty miles each way—and have a good time en route, but, of course, the time may be extended indefinitely with pleasure and profit. Those who go on the voyage for the first time make it one of discovery, and often go far out of their way to find conveniences and pleasures that, had they been over the ground before, they would know were close at hand. The experience of others is, therefore, always eagerly sought by prospective travelers, and hours are often spent in asking and telling how far it is from this point to that, and just where a particular farmhouse or spring is situated. Two in a canoe is usually the rule, though three and four are not too many and make the party all the merrier. A fleet of the little craft but increases the fun.

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A small dog tent, such as is used in the army, will give comfortable shelter for two, and a rubber and a woolen blanket are usually taken along by each camper. A hatchet, milk pail, a camera and perhaps a few other articles are ample "duffle," the term used to designate the necessary paraphernalia for excursions. The clothing of the canoeist usually consists of something heavy enough to wear over all, for protection against the rain, and undergarments which can be worn alone if the day is warm and the course an out-of-the-way one.

Before starting the party must dispatch its business man to the office of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company in Georgetown and procure a way bill which will permit the canoe or canoes to pass through the locks. This will cost but a few dollars for the privilege of going the whole length of the canal. Between here and Harper's Ferry there are thirty-two locks. For shorter trips, not extending farther than Great Falls, the Interclub Canoe Association, an organization of canoeists from all the boating clubs of the city, has made special arrangements with the company and issues passes to its members.

In any river, and especially one of the nature of the Potomac, the conditions of the currents are constantly changing, but unless something unusual happens, such as a very heavy rain, conditions at a given time of the year are likely to repeat themselves. The descriptions given here are of the river at the time of the low water of midsummer, when canoeists most often go upon their trips.

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For the first two miles the river is usually followed. This enables the party to leave directly from one of the boathouses on the Georgetown river front. At a point about one mile this side of Chain bridge, in a cove in "Stony Meadow," on the District shore, there is a place for portage to the canal. This is known as the Eade's Mill portage. It is but a few hundred feet in length, and the longest that it is necessary to make on the entire trip from here to Harper's Ferry.

By following the canal for the next twenty miles it is possible to avoid all of the rough and dangerous portions of the river between here and Seneca, Md., and besides enjoy the picturesque scenery of one of the most attractive stretches of the artificial waterway. The distance from Eade's mill to Great Falls is about fourteen miles. The journey is pleasantly broken by sixteen locks on the way, at each of which a chat with the lock tender and a rest of a few minutes from paddling refresh the canoeist greatly. Three locks are between Chain bridge and Cabin John Bridge; seven are close together just above the latter place and the tenders' houses form a little settlement known as Seven Locks; the other six are in the last mile to the falls.

Just below these last six locks the canal widens into a small lake, dotted with islands and bordered on one side with overhanging cliffs. To this the canal men have given the name of the "Log Wall," possibly from the manner in which the wall between it and the river, which is at a much lower level, is said to have been constructed. This is also known as Wide Water. It is a favorite spot for campers, and some say many fish can be caught there.

Persons who want a real bed to sleep on the first night out stop at a hotel at Great Falls. Those who are anxious to make immediate use of their camping outfit, if they do not stop at the Log Wall, usually select a site for camping above the Great Falls dam, either on the Virginia or the Maryland side of the river. It is considered best to keep to the canal for the next eight miles, or until Seneca is reached.

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Two locks are encountered on the way to Seneca and two more at the settlement itself. This is a quaint little hamlet, hardly more than "a wide place in the road," as has been remarked. It is just twenty-four miles from Georgetown. There are several dwellings besides the lock house, and at any of these milk and other country fare may be obtained. The typical country store is also in evidence. The features of the place are the big dam across the river, which diverts a new supply of water into the canal at this point, and the aqueduct on which the canal crosses Seneca creek, a little, tree-lined stream, up which a canoe can go for nearly a mile.

There are innumerable good camping places about Seneca. A favorite place is the Virginia shore, about a mile above the dam. It is an easy portage from the canal to the river, and at times the lock tender may be persuaded to open the feeder gates and admit the canoes directly on to the river. This may be safely done only when there is not too great a difference between the levels of the canal and the river. After putting into the river it is not necessary to return to the canal for the next twenty-two miles.

The paddle across the river above the dam in the evening is very attractive, especially if the sky is clear. This sheet of water, nearly a mile wide, is as beautiful as can be found near Washington, but canoeists are sometimes cautioned about venturing out upon it when there is danger of a storm, as the wind has a grand opportunity to play ball with a light craft.

When in camp here on a fine evening one often hears the voices of singers across the water. Parties of colored youths will come down the creek in rowboats and out upon the river, where they spend the first part of the night floating about and singing old plantation and jubilee songs. It is a good time then to lie back and dream.

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The sunset and sunrise are equally beautiful across the water. If you make an early start and find yourself out on the river in your canoe, with the great orb's first rays streaming over you and a light morning breeze blowing, you feel like shouting with joy and vigor.

No more attractive route can be desired than the river for the next twenty-two miles, for it winds between islands, large and small, fertile hills and cultivated farms, its waters being neither too rough nor too shallow, and its banks covered with giant sycamores and elms, which throw their welcome shade far over the boat. On the other hand one of the least desirable portions of the canal for a canoe trip is comprised in the monotonous eight and nine-mile levels above Seneca, which parallel this stretch of river.

About a mile above Seneca a chain of islands begins in the river. The first three are about a half a mile in length and offer charming little channels, under drooping trees and vines, to be explored. Various kinds of birds flit about in the branches overhead, and often the graceful crane is seen standing still on a mud bank or a hawk soaring from the highest tree-top. Weasels and muskrats also appear now and then on the banks. A gun would come in handy, and as for a fishing line—unless you want to have a disappointed feeling for the rest of your life take one along for this part of the voyage. You will not catch much except eels and suckers, however, unless the water is clear, in which case the sportive black bass are likely to bite well if your bait is a live minnow.

Gassaway's Island is the next in the chain. It is over a mile in length. Just beyond it is Selden's Island, two miles and a half long. These two are parts of farms on the Virginia side, and their fertile soil is always under cultivation in season.

All of the islands of this chain lie nearer to the Virginia than the Maryland shore, but either channel is good for paddling, the current not being swift enough to deter the average canoeist. Less than two miles fdom the head of Selden's Island Goose creek flows into the river from Virginia. This is the largest tributary above Georgetown reached thus far.

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On the Maryland shore, opposite the mouth of the creek, is a small settlement bearing the name of Edward's Ferry, the ancient rights of which are held by Mrs. M. E. Jarboe in connection with the ownership of a large farm bordering on the river. For several miles above and below this point there is fine bass fishing, and the spot is well known to many Washington disciples of Isaak Walton. Board and lodging can be obtained at the village for an indefinite period. Edward's Ferry consists of the Jarboe farmhouse, the lock tender's house, a store and several other houses. It is about twelve miles from the Baltimore and Ohio railroad at Dickerson, Md., and five miles from the Southern railroad at Leesburg, Va.

Once upon a time Edward's Ferry was quite a business center. Near the place are to be seen the remains of an old lock by which boats were let down from the canal into the river, and vice versa, to enable produce to be shipped direct from Virginia to Georgetown and Alexandria. On the Virginia side of the river, along the lower side of Goose creek, there are also the remains of an old canal leading from the interior. All the former commercial glory of the little settlement has passed away. The high water in the Potomac during the spring of the great Johnstown flood, nearly a score of years ago, caused great damage here, as at other points along the canal, and is partly responsible for the present condition. The building of railroads in Maryland and Virginia, however, is the greatest cause.

Still more picturesque and interesting becomes the river as the canoes leave here, although no better stopping places are passed. Ault's Landing, Va., about a mile further on, is a spot where fishermen camp. A few boats on the shore, nearly opposite the foot of a large island, mark the place. Something over a mile above Ault's, on the same side of the river, is Ball's Bluff, famous as a civil war battlefield, where the federal soldiers were chased over the high cliff into the river by a portion of Lee's army.

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Harrison's Island, a quarter of a mile wide and over a mile long, begins just above Ault's Landing and divides the Potomac into the "Little river" and "Big river," the latter nearer the Maryland side. In both channels some swift water is encountered ,but if the party is not in a hurry—as should be the case in a trip of this kind—it is regarded as no great misfortune, but rather as a chance to get a little good exercise for the arms. Conrad's, or White's Ferry, still extant and used by the inhabitants of the surrounding country, is a quarter of a mile above the head of Harrison's Island. Here in midsummer the river is only a few feet deep in most places, and the ferry barge is poled across, hanging downstream from a heavy steel cable overhead. The river is less than a quarter of a mile wide here.

Scarcely a mile above White's ferry the lower point of Mason's Island is reached. This is wider than Harrison's Island and is a whole farm in itself, with dwelling house, barn, live stock, corn and wheat fields and all. If one comes along at the right time it is possible to fill a pail with rich milk and procure a few good biscuits.

But it is here that a bad place in the river is encountered. Going down stream it is all right, the steersman having only to look out for rocks just beneath the surface, here and there. It is the swift current and shallowness of the water on both sides of the island that cause the canoeist trouble on the journey up stream.

Ledges reaching from bank to bank, in some places covered with only a few inches of water, are crossed with some difficulty, with paddles on the rocky bottom. There is, however, not the slightest danger of a "spill." The worst that can happen, with ordinary care, is the sticking of the boat on a rock, from off which it will have to be pushed. It might even be necessary to get overboard into water up to one's knees, but that is nothing. The western channel is a little less swift than the eastern, though either can be followed easily with a little grit. The current continues swift and the bottom rocky until an island, over half a mile long and coming so closely after Mason's as to be almost a part of it, is passed.

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The reward for all the hard paddling of these few miles comes when the canoe rounds the point of the last island in this chain and shoots on the clear stretch above.

Here is probably the finest portion of the river met with on the trip. The current is slow and even; the distance from bank to bank about the same as it is just above Georgetown, or possibly greater; the depth not great enough to prevent horses from fording at low water, and the shores rolling farms, edged with sycamores and elms leaning oved the water, their gnarled and knotted roots winding around each other at the river's brink. A sand or gravel bar here or there presents a perfect place from which to take a plunge and a swim, and good camping sites are on all sides. If the water is reasonably clear, black bass can be seen jumping after insects all over the water.

In this way another two miles are "knocked off," and then one rounds a wide curve and catches his first glimpse of Sugar Loaf mountain, which apparently rises from the seven-arched aqueduct over the mouth of the Monocacy river, the largest branch of the Potomac, until the Shenandoah is reached. This wooded elevation, lifting its head majestically from the low country around, is in reality five miles distant from the canoe, while the bridge and the mouth of the tributary are only about a mile away; but they are in the same line of vision and the effect produced is very striking.

Since leaving Seneca the canoes that have gone as far as the Monocacy have followed the river in a wide curve to the westward, the distance from the mouth of the latter tributary back to the mouth of Seneca creek being much shorter in a direct line than by the river. The canal is as close to the river in this stretch as it is farther down stream, and as the voyagers turn the noses of their little craft into the Monocacy they pass immediately under the old aqueduct, getting the drip of the canal through the leaky stones.

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A side trip up the Monocacy river for a few miles affords lots of fun. Plenty of swift water will be met with and the canoeists in some places will have to jump out and push. The scenery along the banks is unusually attractive.

For upstream paddling and downstream, too, for that matter, the best part of the river for the canoe is past when the Monocacy is reached. There are rocks and swift currents in abundance for the remainder of the distance to the source and few long stretches of smooth water. It is considered extremely impracticable to continue further up the river. The canoeist usually carries his craft up into the canal, unless, as many do, he thinks it best to make this the turning point of the trip. It is six miles up the canal to Point of Rocks, Md., and eleven miles from there to Harper's Ferry, which is the goal of many travelers on these trips. At the first mentioned place the first ridge of the Appalachian mountain system is passed through and from there on the scenery is grander than it is below, but no more picturesque.

The entire journey home, no matter how far one goes, is much easier and can be made in a much shorter time than the upward trip; for always, in both canal and river, there is the help of some kind of a current, which, indeed, is often so swift in the river as to make the banks go by with great rapidity. To the man who knows the river like a book fine sport can be had in gliding down stream on swift waters that cannot be traveled upon on the upward trip. Such portions are found between Seneca and the Great Falls dam and between Great Falls and the High Island dam. But beware! And don't venture there unless you are an expert and know the way perfectly.

The effect of such an outing as has been described, if care is taken to prevent overexertion, is of the best. The returned traveler has a strong and healthy feeling, his face and arms are sunburned and he feels equal to accomplishing double tasks in the city. The desire to try it again is the uppermost thought in his mind.

Does Not Apply to Death Sentences

Special Correspondence of The Star.

LONDON, April 5, 1906.

AT last English folk are in a fair way to obtain what has long been found necessary to safeguard justice in every civilized nation on earth, England excepted—a court of criminal appeal. Lord Loreburn, the new lord chancellor, has introduced in the house of lords a bill for the establishment of such a court. As Lord James of Hereford said, as far back as 1892: "We stand unique among nations in that we accept error without attempting to remedy it." That the removal of tha reproach has been so long delayed is due to the ingrained conservatism of the awesome, bewigged officials who run British justice.

In civil suits, though the matter at issue may be a mere trumpery breach of contrac' or some petty property dispute, the right of appeal is open to all. But in criminal cases, which are far more serious matters to those concerned, involving loss of character, imprisonment and even forfeiture of life, British legal procedure admits of no appeal to a higher court. The English nation was greatly stirred over the Dreyfus case, but it is not generally realized in America that in England today no rehearing of a Dreyfus case could possibly take place, no matter what new facts might be brought to light, for the simple reason that no court exists before which it could be brought. And that England has its Dreyfus cases has been shown by the numerous woeful miscarriages of justice which have taken place in recent years in which innocence has been established after conviction.

How many guiltless men now languish in British jails because they lack influential friends to take up their cases no one knows. That a conditions of affairs should be tolerated which renders such things possible is to the ordinary lay mind simply incomprehensible.

But Lord Loreburn's bill contains an anomaly which must be equally incomprehensible to those who are not familiar with legal subtleties and paradoxes. His bill does not apply to cases in which sentence of death has been passed. On what ground it can be maintained that a man condemned to a few months' imprisonment for theft should have the right of appeal and that right should be denied the individual condemned to death, passes the understanding of plain common sense. To prevent the possibility of an innocent man or woman being hanged would seem to be the most important function of a court of criminal appeal.

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It is difficult to account for Lord Loreburn's failure to see it that way. As "Bob" Reid in the house of commons Lord Loreburn enjoyed the reputation of being a hard-headed, clear-thinking radical. However, when his bill comes before the present house of commons, which entertains scant respect for wigs of any sort, it is probable that it will be amended to the extent of giving a man convicted of murder the same chance to establish his innocence that it gives the burglar.

It has been one of the cherished fictions of British institutions that the home office has the functions that are elsewhere exercised by the criminal court of appeals. The home office, through the home secretary, exercises the prerogative of mercy which is technically lodged in the crown. It may reduce a sentence which in its wisdom it considers too severe. If convinced that a convicted man is innocent it does not pronounce him innocent, but grants him the king's most gracious pardon. Pardoning a man for something he hasn't done, and one who has been subjected to the ignominy of public trial and disgrace, sounds much like adding insult to injury. Legally the man who has been pardoned still reains the brand of the convicted criminal.

How utterly incompetent is the home office to take the place of a criminal court of appeals was shown by the notorious Beck case, in which an innocent man was twice convicted of crimes with which he had not the remotest connection and served one term of seven years' penal servitude. The committee which investigated the matter declared in effect that if there had been one man in the legal department of the home office capable of comprehending legal evidence, Beck's innocence would have been established soon after his first conviction. But none of them lost his job in consequence. They are all still there doing things in accordance with official traditions, which are held as sacred as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

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Herbert Gladstone, the son of the Grand Old Man, is now the home secretary, but that he is just as much bound by red tape regulations as his predecessors is shown by a case in which an appeal was recently made to him for a revision of sentence. Tried before a country justice of the peace, George Edalji, a young lawyer, was found guilty by a country jury of maiming cattle and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. The evidence against him was of the flimsiest character and consisted chiefly of anonymous letters, which the same treasury handwriting expert who blundered in the Beck case—without losing his job in consequence—declared were written by Edalji, notwithstanding the fact that some of them were addressed to the police actually warning them against Edalji.

The defense had not the benefit of a handwriting expert. After Edalji's conviction it was discovered that anonymous letters of a similar character affecting the prisoner and his relatives had been addressed to members of his family at intervals for a period of fifteen years before his trial and including the time when he was still in the nursery. To establish his innocence it is vital that these earlier letters should be compared with the later ones that were put in evidence at the trial. But these last letters are in possession of the home office or the police. Application to inspect them on the prisoner's behalf was made to the home secretary.

The application was refused by Herbert Gladstone on the ground that it was "contrary to the rules of the office." A department which is supposed to exercise every care to prevent miscarriages of justice denies a man the means of establishing his innocence on the plea that it conflicts with some red tape regulation which was probably made by some official fossil a hundred years ago to save himself trouble. What a rumpus that sort of thing would occasion in America! But in staid old England, it causes no fuss. Official traditions must be respected, even though in consequence, an innocent man spends seven years in jail. If that stalwart representative of workingman democracy, John Burns, were in Herbert Gladstone's place, it is thought, he would brush aside the foolish regulations like so many cobwebs.

The Wages of Kings.

From Answers.

By the death of King Christian, the new King of Denmark comes suddenly into an income of £60,160 per annum. This, however, is by no means extravagant pay as compared with the grants of other rulers.

The German emperor receives £600,000 a year—the biggest allowance made to any constitutional monarch. Our own king receives only £470,000 a year, although a separate grant of £20,000 is made to the Prince of Wales, one of £10,000 to the Princess of Wales and another £1,800 per annum to each of the king's three daughters.

The King of Austria-Hungary figures high on the list of handsomely-paid rulers, receiving £382,202 a year. King Alfonso, boy though he is, disposes of £338,000 annually, and even little Belgium spares £132,000 a year for the glory of being a monarchy. Italy's royal grant is £157,000. Queen Wilhelmina of Holland lives quietly on £66,666, the King of Greece struggles along on £53,000, while the King of Servia—poor fellow—is reduced to poverty by a grant of £48,000 a year, or less than £1,000 a week!

Do Tuskegee Graduates Work?

Booker T. Washington in World's Work.

Six thousand students have come for a longer or shorter time under the influence of the institution during the twenty-five years of its existence. So far as I have been able to ascertain not one of the graduates has been convicted of a crime, and less than 10 per cent are failures in the occupations which they have adopted. There is an increasing demand all over the south for their services. One great reason why so many of the students who enter fail to finish their course is that their earning capacity is increased to such an extent—on an average 300 per cent at the end of the full course—by a few months or years at study that they yield to the temptation to go to work at the increased salary and do not return to complete their course at the school.